REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1 and 9 are currently amended. No claims are withdrawn. Claims 17-20 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claims 1-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,067,545 of *Wolff*.

35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejections

In the Office Action, Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C §101 as claims 1-8 are directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicant respectfully submit that claim 1 satisfies the statutory requirement of 35 U.S.C. §101. As amended, independent claim 1 recites:

> A **computer-implemented method**, comprising:
> maintaining a global resource namespace including a list of a plurality of child and parent resource objects **of an integrated circuit** and a representation of the relationships among the child and parent resource objects; and
> rebalancing the plurality of resource objects.

(emphasis added)

The Office Actions states:

> Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. The cited claims detail a method of rebalancing a plurality of resource objects in a global resource namespace having a parent-child relationship. As proper under M.P.E.P. 2106, claims directed to non-functional subject matter are non-statutory and thereby rejected based on 35 U.S.C. 101. **The only cited functional operation of rebalancing the plurality of resource objects can be a mental or abstract operation that does not need to be performed by a computer system and therefore the claims are directed to an abstract idea.**

(Office Action, 7/13/2005, page 2.)(emphasis added).

Applicant respectfully submits that, as amended, claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method including, inter alia, the limitation of rebalancing the plurality of resource objects, and thus, is not a functional operation that is mental or an abstract operation. Therefore, independent claim 1 satisfies the statutory requirement of 35 U.S.C. §101.

Given that claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, applicants submit that claims 2-8 satisfy the statutory requirement of 35 U.S.C. §101.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent *Wolff* (6,067,545). Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference. In particular the Office Action States:

> As to claim 1, WOLFF teaches a method, comprising: **maintaining a global resource namespace (via a uniform file directory format in the directory/access database / resource database having a plurality of records / table of all available resources and available paths to the resources through servers / single system image of all network resources and all available paths to those resources through available nodes)** including a list of a plurality resource objects (resource records) and a representation of the relationship among the resource objects (col. 22, lines 10-67, wherein each record has a pointer to the parent directory) (see also col. 21, lines 10-34, wherein the resources are volumes and contains fields that indicate the parent administrative node, i.e. parent server, and current administrative nodes, i.e. currently assigned server; col. 61, lines 1-52; col. 31, lines 30-42; col. 9, line 35-63; abstract, "Each of the resources are coupled to at least two of the server nodes... for handling an administrative portion of an I/O request for the corresponding resource.") and rebalancing the plurality of resource objects (via determining a time out interval has expired / based on a resource being unavailable or coming online) (col. 50, line 20 -col. 51, line 2; col. 8, lines 10-34; abstract).

(Office Action, mailed 7/13/2005, page 3)(emphasis added).

Wolff merely discloses a "method for load rebalancing of a network," including "remapping of pathways between nodes, e.g., servers, and resources, e.g., volumes/file systems. Resource rebalancing allows the network to reconfigure itself as components come on-line/off-line, as components fail, and as components fail back. (See Wolf, col. 2, lines 30, and 36-40). "Resources can include but are not limited to computers, memory devices, imaging devices, printers and data sets. A data set can include a database or a

file system for example. Nodes can include but are not limited to computers, gateways, bridges and routers. Clients can include but are not limited to: computers, gateways, bridges, routers, phones, and remote access devices. Clients may be coupled to nodes directly over a network. Nodes may be coupled to resources individually or in combination over a network directly. (See col. 4, lines 39-48). The resources of Wolff do not constitute a plurality of child and parent resource objects of an integrated circuit because the resources of Wolff are components and systems of a network.

In contrast, claim 1 recites a "maintaining a global resource namespace including a list of a plurality of child and parent resource objects of an integrated circuit." Nothing in Wolff, however, teaches or suggests a "maintaining a global resource namespace including a list of a plurality of child and parent resource objects of an integrated circuit," as recited in claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference.

Given that claims 2-8 depend from claim 1, applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-8 are also patentable over the cited reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable over the cited reference. Wolff merely discloses a "method for load rebalancing of a network," including "remapping of pathways between nodes, e.g., servers, and resources, e.g., volumes/file systems. Resource rebalancing allows the network to reconfigure itself as components come on-line/off-line, as components fail, and as components fail back. (See Wolf, col. 2, lines 30, and 36-40). "Resources can include but are not limited to computers, memory devices, imaging devices, printers and data sets. A data set can include a database or a file system for example. Nodes can include but are not limited to computers, gateways, bridges and routers. Clients can include but are not limited to: computers, gateways, bridges, routers, phones, and remote access devices. Clients may be coupled to nodes directly over a network. Nodes may be coupled to resources individually or in combination over a network directly. (See col. 4, lines 39-48). The resources of Wolff do not constitute a plurality of child and parent resource objects of an integrated circuit because the resources of Wolff are components and systems of a network.

In contrast, claim 9 recites a "maintaining a global resource namespace including a list of a plurality of child and parent resource objects of an integrated circuit." Nothing in Wolff, however, teaches or suggests a "maintaining a global resource namespace including a list of a plurality of child and parent resource objects of an integrated circuit," as recited in claim 9. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 9 is patentable over the cited reference.

Given that claims 10-16 depend from claim 9, applicants respectfully submit that claims 10-16 are also patentable over the cited reference.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is patentable over the cited reference. Wolff merely discloses a "method for load rebalancing of a network," including "remapping of pathways between nodes, e.g., servers, and resources, e.g., volumes/file systems. Resource rebalancing allows the network to reconfigure itself as components come on-line/off-line, as components fail, and as components fail back. (See Wolf, col. 2, lines 30, and 36-40). "Resources can include but are not limited to computers, memory devices, imaging devices, printers and data sets. A data set can include a database or a file system for example. Nodes can include but are not limited to computers, gateways, bridges and routers. Clients can include but are not limited to: computers, gateways, bridges, routers, phones, and remote access devices. Clients may be coupled to nodes directly over a network. Nodes may be coupled to resources individually or in combination over a network directly. (See col. 4, lines 39-48). The resources of Wolff do not constitute a plurality of shared resources of an integrated circuit because the resources of Wolff are components and systems of a network.

In contrast, claim 17 recites "an integrated circuit including a plurality of shared resources." Nothing in Wolff, however, teaches or suggests "an integrated circuit including a plurality of shared resources," as recited in claim 17. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is patentable over the cited reference.

Given that claims 18-20 depend from claim 17, applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-20 are also patentable over the cited reference.

Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome. If the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Michael J. Mallie at (408) 720-8300.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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